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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1916.

THE BOLD MR. BRYAN

It was Mr. Bryan who, in 1896, appearing at a great political meeting in New York, referred to himself as "in the enemy's country." The event showed that he was in the enemy's country about everywhere he went; and he has kept right on, ever since, merrily fighting in the enemy's country and on the whole thriving, if not getting elected President very often.

Now, it is announced, he is going to make the greatest onslaught of his career. He is to invade Wisconsin in the interest of the referendum on prohibition, which, it is proposed, shall be provided by the State's legislature this year. There has been some effort to exclude Milwaukee, the dampest and most famously damp town in the country, from the referendum. Mr. Bryan wants it included; if the rest of the State will vote Milwaukee dry, under the Bryan program, dry goes Milwaukee.

Mr. Bryan hasn't lost any of his courage, anyhow, despite that the great meeting of his campaign for a dry Milwaukee will be held in Madison rather than in the State's metropolis.

DEMOCRATIC ART CRITICISM

Congratulations are due the Corcoran Gallery of Art for instituting an experiment in the democracy of art. That gallery is going to submit the 400 or more pictures in its mid-winter exhibition to a popular referendum. To the painter of the picture which polls the largest vote goes an award of \$200.

One reason why the painting of pictures and the designing of sculpture, we beg to submit, have been surrounded with so much "high-browism" and criticism that over-looks itself, is because they do not adjust themselves easily to expressions of popular opinion. The art of the theater, of literature, and of music, submit themselves readily to a box office and a counting room verdict. Not so with painting and sculpture. Only time, sometimes centuries of time, can tell whether a picture or a statue will live in popular esteem or will die.

Talk about the commercialism of theaters, and of publishers as you will, the fact remains that this commercialism at least affords a measure of public taste. This popular taste may not always be in accord with the highest artistic standards. But to many it is preferable to the highly attenuated and specialized standards of criticism that prevail in those arts that are not so readily subservient to popular opinion.

It will be highly worth while to see how nearly the verdict of the public in the case of the Corcoran collection comes to that of the judges. The judges are fortified with a knowledge of technique which makes their opinion valuable as expert testimony. The public's are the standards by which, in the long run, these pictures will live as works of art, or will succumb because they have not that innate appeal to broad human sympathy and understanding.

A GOVERNMENT PAPER MILL

The Congressional joint Committee on Printing has been urged by its expert advisers to secure from Congress authorization for construction of a Government pulp and paper mill. A few years ago such a proposal would not have been advanced seriously, and if brought forward would have met with derisive rejection. Today it is taken seriously and it is not impossible that the project will be adopted.

It is not very apparent why the Government should carry on the largest printing business in the world, in its own plant, with its own organization, hiring its own people, and yet regard an entrance into paper manufacture as impossible. A number of newspapers have recently bought paper mills in order to insure their supplies. The paper market is in a bad state, and there is need not only for the most careful conservation of paper and elimination of waste, but for every effort to increase supplies. Government manufacture of paper would presumably be carried on in a new Government plant; at any rate, it ought to be if it is to be undertaken at all, for there is especial necessity for expansion of the facilities of production. The Government is said to use some 30,000,000 pounds of paper a year. It has plenty of timber and power in its own domain; there is every reason why, if Government production of any article is desirable, paper should be listed as such a staple.

But in the present state of the paper market, it would not be of much advantage for the Govern-

ment to buy a plant already in operation and turn it over to the production of paper for Government needs. Under Government management, the short hours of work and other conditions that need not be suggested would quite possibly reduce the actual tonnage of the production and instead of providing a measure of relief in the general market there would quite as likely be a loss of some part of the supply.

A Government experiment in making paper would be of great value, moreover, in helping to equip Government authorities with detailed knowledge of the costs of paper production and of the conditions which have brought about the present unprecedented status of this market.

PRESSURE ON THE NEUTRALS

It will not be seriously assumed, in this country, that Germany succeeded, by any process of applying pressure to neutrals, in compelling President Wilson to send his note suggesting a peace effort. But there is a convincing testimony that Germany has been holding over minor neutrals states the threat of a pressure more severe than has yet been applied to them, and that this has much to do with certain developments in their attitude.

Foremost, of course, is the increasing violence of the submarine warfare; the relaxing of regulations calculated to guarantee lives and non-contraband property. Holland, Denmark, and the Scandinavian countries, crushed between the opposing groups of belligerents, foresee the most disastrous results if the most extreme measures which Germany threatens shall be carried into effect. For months past the German attitude has been that of holding her submarine club over belligerents and neutrals alike and dictating: "Make peace now, on my terms, or down it comes." The neutral that hesitated might consider what happened to Belgium; what punishment was meted to Serbia; to Roumania. Holland knows that her control of the lower Rhine has long been, in the Prussian mind, the conclusive reason why Holland's very existence was inconsistent with the ultimate ambitions of Germany.

Denmark has Schleswig-Holstein in her thoughts; Norway and Sweden, despite that naturally they incline in sympathy toward Germany as against Russia, have felt the power of German maritime ruthlessness. Switzerland has been surrounded by belligerents, reminded every hour of the fate that may be portioned to any minor state that gets in the way of the Teuton juggernaut.

The European neutrals, looking on these things, naturally assume that Germany has sought likewise to terrorize the United States, the greatest of neutrals, but in many ways the least prepared for a great conflict. They saw two submarine destroyers cross to our very coastline and demonstrate how easy it would be to blockade our harbors. They assume, and not unnaturally, that that performance was the warning to the great American neutral that it, too, would feel the weight of the German club unless it should loan itself to the German purposes. Americans may feel never so certain that their President was conscious of no such pressure when he initiated his peace move; they may be perfectly assured that he acted only from the highest, most unselfish motives common to humanity. But they will understand how natural for the sadly beset neutrals of Europe to believe that the pressure has been felt, and has produced results, on this side. There is, indeed, plenty of voice for the suspicion that the President was moved, in part at least, by realization of the danger of a submarine warfare on our coasts.

Using its club thus, what does Germany expect to gain? Evidently, a united effort by the neutrals to compel the entente into a conference where they would be at a supreme disadvantage because of both the military position and the division of interests among them. No peace made under present conditions can impose upon Germany guarantees for the future. None can give Germany less than a great accession of importance in the world. None can be made that will not involve a menace to Russia's future, to Britain's empire, to France's integrity, to Italy's ambitions for a reunion of all Italians in security and sufficient power to sustain themselves in the world.

BERLIN'S MARVELOUS PROMPTNESS

We are not informed as to the number of explanations, notes, apologies, assurances, and the like Germany now owes the United States. The list is a long one, and has been growing longer for many months. A catalogue of it would be highly impressive just now, if it could be set up in contrast to the showing of marvelous promptness with which Berlin answered the note of President Wilson, in which he asked the belligerents to indicate what they were fighting for and on what terms they would make peace.

That very promptness has given rise, naturally, to a suspicion that Germany is playing for advantage of position; a suspicion that is decidedly strengthened by the charac-

ter of Berlin's reply to President Wilson. It is a reply that, in present conditions, can elicit only a flat rejection of peace efforts; and the impression gains ground that Germany was playing an extra-clever game with the purpose of making herself appear before the neutral world as the seeker, and her enemies as the rejectors, of peace.

SOMETHING MORE THAN MONEY

The United States faces a world situation in which defense is liable presently to mean more than spending money. There is no hesitation about building ships and making guns and constructing fortifications, for the national defense. A demand for a billion dollars would be met without great opposition. The last Congress session made appropriations that broke all records, and the present one is likely to go still farther; yet the political campaign demonstrated that almost nobody was concerned about the great drafts on the Treasury.

But the time is come when, through the mists and uncertainties of the diplomatic situation, it becomes apparent that the nation faces the serious possibility of being drawn into the war. The Secretary of State said exactly that, in the most impressive manner. Study and analysis of the recent momentous exchanges between governments has added to the conviction.

If war comes, spending money will not fulfill the duty of the country. There will have to be soldiers, sailors, a great organization of manpower, a subordination of personal to national concerns at a thousand points of which Americans, in decades of peace, have almost lost sight.

The pacifists have for two years insisted that the United States would never be involved in the war; first, because it isn't our concern; second, because we could give no service in it. "What could we do, if we were in the war?" has been the poser with which a million arguments have been foreclosed on the pacifist side. The nation faces the need to answer, and to answer by showing, not that it could do nothing important, but how much it could do. The very best possible insurance against involvement in the war would have been taken out, long before the struggle began, by the creation of a great defense system. It was not created. Our man-power is not trained; there is no interest, no enthusiasm for, military service. The effort to add 20,000 men to the regular army, to recruit the national guard up to full strength, proved this all too clearly.

So the country has drifted to the time where it is beginning to appreciate its needs and its danger. It is passing strange indeed that men could have been so long and persistently blind that they would not see the menace of a world war; would not realize the difficulties of keeping this nation out of it.

No doubt, if war actually should come, there would be patriotic response; willingness to serve; bravery to do war's work. But all this, without training, understanding, fit leadership, would be useless. Universal training, liability to universal service, must be provided very soon as an insurance of peace, or they will have to be provided as a part of our actual contribution to war. Shall it be done in time, or too late?

Uncle Sam still waits on Carranza; watchfully, of course.

If only Berlin's ready letter writer were so animated in explaining some of the submarine doings:

The Demon Rum hardly has time to get over the surprise of carrying something—namely, Boston—before the enemy comes along with a project to increase the internal revenue taxes on him. Can't a perfectly amiable demon get any chance at all?

It is observed that there is a respectful disposition to refer to the little group of party irregulars in the House as "Independents" rather than as "non-descripts." There happens to be a large enough number of them to make it possible that they will determine the next Speaker.

The real question is whether Germany wants peace because she must have it, or because she thinks the other side must have it.

The Germans having threatened to send a flock of submarines to the Straits of Gibraltar and shut off the Mediterranean route, the British admiralty replies with an invitation to do just that. Admiral Beatty would like nothing better than to get a big bunch of submarines corralled in a little space like that, where they would be easy to hit.

When the peace delegates get together, some place, some time, as they certainly will have to do, it's going to require the services of a supreme authority in diplomatic etiquette to figure the order in which they should all sit down.

People who are predicting, on the basis of 1917's vibrations, that peace is coming this year, are not far wrong. There have been a long time of years, and will be a long time more of years. Peace will come in some year not very far from 1917. Keep your vibrations on straight!

Don Marquis' Column

The Cartoons of Reamakers. The war-racked world he spreads before us here—Pity and terror—bitter truth—and woe!

The homeless Belgians, fainting as they go, A shield before their spoilers; and the merriment where November leaves fall are On sodden heaps—that once were friend and foe And wistful wraiths rise from the sea, but lo!

The War Lord reads his Zeitung with a sneer! Reamakers, with their soul of quenchless fire, Cry, still, their sorrows—and the endless shame Of those who to no nobler good aspire Than fat-jowled ease! Ah, measure, less our blame If Belgium by her ravished hearth

If Liberty to us is but a name! —Lorraine.

A Filipino chauffeur applied to one of our Manila readers for a job in the following letter:

Manila, P. I., October 2nd, 1916.

Mr. B. G. Butler, My Dear Sir: I have heard that you will go to buy an Automobile. I, who undersign wants to apply for the position as driver if you still haven't got any. I have worked from a very delicate Garage here in the City which belongs to Mr. Roy J. Berry, that I am so sure that you know him. And I am grant to tell you, that I worked under his Roof for two yrs. and three months, as his No. 1 boy in his Garage. I know how to drive even any kinds of cars.

I can refer to you Mr. Berry, my Manager before about my ability, and I'm sure that he will tell you something.

Hope to hear from you some favorable and I remain, Yours Respectfully,

DOMINGO G. DAVILA, 188 Ribillim, Sta. Ana.

Domingo writes English a great deal better than we could write Spanish at that.

H. M. informs us that there is a diplomat in Port Jervis, N. Y., named Jawsmith.

Twelve million, one hundred and seventy-three thousand four hundred and twenty-eight working hours are lost each day throughout the civilized world shaking fountain pens so they will make a mark.

YES; HE SHILLS THROUGH. Sir: At the outer portals stands a candidate seeking admission to the Star Chamber of the Apocryphics. His name is Plumer, and he is an Outfitter of Ladies, in the way of Cloaks and Gowns. Shall the portals be thrown open and hindrance to his admission removed? —J. S. A.

The Attributing Physician. A contributor sends us a clipping, from a paper which he forgets to identify, containing the following interesting bit of medical information:

"And Mrs. Carpenter of Everett attended the Birth of a Nation at Fort Madison."

Discovered. Your column is a Mosale Quilt. Of incongruous but spicy thoughts stitched together.

By your Needle of Choice! But sometimes when you miss a stitch I can peep through And see you loafing Under the Quilt! —Cap and Bells

A Communication From Army. excuse me if my writing is out of alignment I fell into a bowl of egg nog the other day at the restaurant across the street which the doctor says he is glad to hear you are keeping away from and when I emerged I was full of happy inspirations alas they vanished ere the break of day I am sure they were the most brilliant and witty things that ever emanated from the mind of man or cockroach or poet I sat inside a mince pie and laughed and laughed at them myself the world seemed all one golden glory boss

I come across the street to get all this wonderful stuff onto paper for you but when I tried to operate the typewriter my foot would slip and by the time I had control of the machine again the thoughts had gone forever it is the tragedy of the artist

The Thoughts of Hermione. Don't you think that there is something—something—well, solemn—about New Year, if you get what I mean?

It's a kind of a milestone, you know. We should make it a spiritual milestone!

One should say to one's self: "Have I failed this year? Or have I not?"

Honest confession is good for the soul—of course I know that that is a platitude—but then, as Fothergill Finch says, one should have the courage of one's platitudes—and—well, I am forced to admit that in some respects I have failed.

Not that I could name any one particular thing in which I have failed, you know.

But I feel stirring within me the desire for a bigger, broader life * * * deeper and intenser spiritual experiences, if you get what I mean.

I'm not satisfied * * * exactly.

They say that moods of dissatisfaction are signs of spiritual growth.

I hope so! I feel just as the chrysalis must feel—or is it the butterfly?—Or the cocoon?

Anyhow, you know what I mean—something that is about to burst from something with a new pair of wings, you know.

What will the new phase be? Will it come in the New Year? Will it be a new personality? Or—new phase of the old one? Who can tell?

DON MARQUIS.

PEOPLE OF RUSSIA COMING INTO OWN

Beginning to Find Themselves Through Participation in Great War.

PEASANTS ARE PROSPEROUS

Year One of Most Significant in Whole History of the Empire.

(This is the third of a series of reviews of the European war in the past year, written for The Times by correspondents in the field.)

PARIS, Dec. 28.—Whatever Russia may do in the future, 1916 will be set down as one of the greatest years in her history. No period in all her national development has been more significant, not even the sixties, which marked the liberation of the serfs.

During 1916 the Russian people, the common people, seem to have found themselves and their place in the empire. Their position may not as yet be very clearly defined, but the future, Russian students believe, will look after that.

Russia, in the last year, has accomplished much. She recovered from the blow Germany dealt her in East Prussia, Poland, and Galicia. She completed building a brand new army in the field. She called to the colors an army, twice as big, which she holds in readiness for any emergency which the war may cause. She sent troops to France and to Saloniki via Siberia and Vladivostok, and another army she sent to help Rumania when that country joined the allies.

In the meantime, she resumed the offensive in Galicia and completely disrupted the Austrian armies there, taking well over half million prisoners. And in Asia Minor she waged a powerful campaign against the Turks beyond the Caucasus.

She are tremendous accomplishments when one remembers what Russia was up against in 1915, when she had, during her great retreat, but one shell a day, per battery, to fire against the advancing Germans.

The minister of war, judged responsible for the bulk of the army's misfortunes, M. Sukhomlinoff, was arrested in the spring of 1916 and placed in the Peter and Paul prison on an island in the Neva.

This was the last year of "No Vodka." The imperial decree abolishing vodka came, it is true, in the fall of 1914, but 1915 was not a true trial. Russia, that year, was getting over her lag so to speak, and it was only in 1916 that she was able to get a chance to show what she could do.

Peasants Are Prosperous.

Savings bank accounts went up by leaps and bounds. Peasants, constituting 80 per cent of the country's population of 170,000,000, were never so well off in their lives. They were better fed, better clothed, put in on an average double the number of working hours a day, and sickness was reduced to an incredible degree.

One hospital the correspondent knows of had 1,500 beds. Prior to 1915 it was overflowing all the time, having some 2,000 patients to care for on its best it could. Now 1,000 beds have been sent to a military hospital because there are never more than 400 patients to care for.

This year the formation of a central committee to co-ordinate the work of the All-Russian Zemstvo Union and the All-Russian Municipal Union, two organizations composed of Russian plain people banded together to help the empire run the war.

Through this committee every man, woman, and child was brought more or less directly into touch with the war, and perhaps it has done more to make the war a "popular" war than any other movement. The Zemstvo Union, above all, is a people's concern, and the Zemstvos have instructed the peasants and common people generally throughout Russia as to what the war means to them and the importance of carrying it on to a successful finish.

Have Solidified Empire.

Each State in the United States is divided into counties. If each county had a board composed partly of farmers, partly of village merchants and other property holders there, and partly of landowners, this board would correspond to the Russian Zemstvo board, which is charged with roadbuilding, schools, and hospitals of its district. It is easy to see the influence of a Zemstvo board on the rural population.

The Municipality Union is doing in the cities what the union of all the Zemstvos is doing in the country. These two people's associations during 1916 have made millions of garments for soldiers, enlisted the services of women all over the land; fed tens of thousands of refugees from the invaded districts; equipped and operated hundreds of hospitals, furnishing the necessary supplies themselves; established tea and coffee rooms for the free distribution of these beverages; aided the government feed the soldiers at the front; furnished laborers in many instances to dig trenches, build bridges, and so on, etc., and, in a general way, they have solidified the Russian empire by having the people work with the soldiers for the common cause.

This work was begun early in the war. In 1915 it made such headway that no one can dispute its magnitude the day nor its probable influence on the Russia of the future.

Mobilized Munitions Output.

Similar to the Zemstvo and municipality unions in that it is an organization growing out of public spirit, is the committee which during 1916 mobilized the small industries of Russia to help the army with munitions. There are several large munitions factories in Russia which deal direct with the War Department, but there are hundreds of little foundries, machine-shops, mill and works of all sorts too small to do business of this sort alone.

The committee grouped all these, put specialists in charge of district groups, and had them fill orders for the government. The little industries were thus grouped into one big industry by

a committee of patriotic men who receive no pay for their service, though, of course, the little shops are paid for whatever they supply the army.

Russia's own output of munitions more than quadrupled during 1916 through these and other expedients. The little concerns could not make great siege guns, of course, but they could and do make trench mortars, hand grenades, calceons, cannon wheels, hatchets, spades, the smaller shells and what not.

Give Employment to Poor.

Furthermore they have built tanneries for taking care of enormous quantities of Russia hides; built or enlarged factories for making the necessary tanning chemicals; built new boot and shoe factories and enlarged old ones to make footwear for the troops; and established enormous repairing plants to redeem leaky and worn army boots. They employ scores of thousands of poor people, mostly women, thus giving material aid in time of need. Schools for mechanics, chauffeurs and other specialists are maintained to supply the army with experts, and automobile repair shops are operated by the committee all along the front.

On the sea 1916 failed to bring to Russia any great victories. But also it brought no defeat. Beyond one mysterious fight in a fog in the Baltic during a dash into the Gulf of Finland against coast towns there, costing the Germans another three or four odd destroyers; naval aid to the Russian armies at Riga and at Treblinka in Asia Minor, not much more is known of Russia's maritime activities.

Diplomatically two important events were registered during the year just closing. Both directly affect the United States. One was the conclusion of a treaty between Russia and Japan, binding these two countries together on all questions concerning the Far East; the second was Russia's refusal to conclude a commercial treaty with the United States replacing the one abrogated during President Taft's administration.

People Finding Themselves.

Her refusal was not official, but refusal it was nevertheless, her excuse being the undesirability of entering into commercial agreements with neutral nations until after the war, or at least until the allies' trade agreement can be more definitely defined.

On the other hand a project was broached for direct telegraphic communication between Russia and the United States, either by cable or wireless. Also permission has been given for the establishment of an American bank in Petrograd.

A decree prohibiting the importation of luxuries was promulgated during the year, three months before a week proclaimed and other economic war measures put into force.

But so far as Russia is concerned the real participation in the war by the common people was a big event. Through this participation the people are beginning to find themselves. The formation of a peasants' party in the Duma is significant of the new trend in Russia which made itself particularly manifest during the year now at its close. The subtle internal change in the empire will make 1916 remembered when victories in the field shall have been forgotten.

THREE PRESS CLUB TALKS

Capt. Robt. A. Bartlett, Will Irwin, and John Barrett to Speak.

Three entertainments have been announced by the entertainment committee of the National Press Club for the coming two weeks in lectures by Capt. Robert A. Bartlett, Will Irwin, and John Barrett, director of the "Pan-American Union," the "Captain Bartlett, who was Peary's navigator on his dash to the North Pole, will deliver his illustrated lecture tonight at 9 o'clock. If possible, Admiral Peary will introduce the speaker.

Will Irwin will entertain the members on January 7 with a lecture on conditions at the French front, from which he has just returned.

Mr. Barrett is scheduled to address the club January 1.

WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

Many Interesting Events of Importance Are Scheduled.

Today.

Lecture, illustrated, Capt. Robert A. Bartlett, National Press Club, 5:30 p. m.

Smoker, Washington Alumni Chapter of the University of Virginia, Raleigh Hotel, 8 p. m.

Christmas party for the pupils and sisters of the Holy Cross Academy, at home of Edward and Catharine, 2135 Upton street, N. W., 7:30 to 10:30 p. m.

Christmas party at home of Mr. and Mrs. Mattie Ewing, 1207 R street northwest, 8 p. m.

Meeting, National Capital Society and Pigeon Association, Public Library, 8 p. m.

Dance and card party, Congressional Union for Women, at Cameron House on Lafayette square, 8 p. m.

Cavalry drill, riding hall at Fort Myer, 2:30 p. m.

Dinner to colored slaves and old residents of Washington, Metropolitan Baptist Church, M street, between Ninth and Tenth streets northwest, 7 p. m.

Massacre—The New Jerusalem, N. W. George C. Welling, No. 22 Madison square, N. W., Old Folks—Columbia, No. 10; Salem, No. 22; Covenant, No. 13; Excelsior, No. 11; Langdon.

Illustrated lecture, Capt. Robert A. Bartlett, navigator in the Peary expedition to the North Pole, National Press Club, 9 p. m.

Amusements.

National-Raymond Hitchcock in "Betty," 8:15 p. m.

Bureau-Gaiety Kellergerman in "A Daughter of the Gods," 8:15 and 9:15 p. m.

Keith's-Vaudiville, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.

Poll's—"The Old Homestead," 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.

Lycium-Burlesque, 3 and 8 p. m.

Revue-Burlesque, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.

Leew's Columbia-Motion pictures, 10:30 a. m. to 11 p. m.

Surand-Motion pictures, 10 a. m. to 10:30 p. m.

Garden-Photographs, 10 a. m. to 10:30 p. m.

Tomorrow.

Lecture, "The Problem of the Race," Prof. Albert Russell, of Johns Hopkins University, Friends Church, Thirteenth and Irving streets northwest, 8 p. m.

Massacre—"The Peary Expedition and Treatment," Dr. William A. Jack, before National Society of Keep-wells, parish hall of St. John's Church, 8 p. m.

Society Circus, under auspices of Riding and Hunt Club of Washington, at the club, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.

Meeting, Women's Interdenominational Missionary Union, with address by Mrs. C. P. Wilson, of Philadelphia, Public Library, 7 p. m.

Concert, "United States Soldiers' Home Band Orchestra, Stanley Hall, 8:30 p. m.

Lecture and pictures on "Peck's Bad Boy," Boys' Uplift Club, 719 Sixth street northwest, 7:30 p. m.

Lecture, "The Boyhood of Jesus," Madame Mountford, Ingram Memorial Church, 8 p. m.

Box supper, Lincoln Women's Relief Corps, No. 4, G. A. R. Hall, 8 p. m.

Massacre—"The New Jerusalem," N. W. George C. Welling, No. 22 Madison square, N. W., Old Folks—Columbia, No. 10; Salem, No. 22; Covenant, No. 13; Excelsior, No. 11; Langdon.